

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6433

Introduced by **Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 states:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

After joining 19 Summer Olympic Games, the Philippines only managed to win two silver medals and seven bronze medals.¹ The nation is still waiting for its first gold medal. The performance in the Olympic Games is considered as the best measure of the athletic skill of a nation. Bud Greenspan used a quote from Barrie Houlihan that helps explain nationalism in the Olympics in his study called Olympic Orchestration: "nationalism is deeply embedded in the fabric of Olympic movement... it is the defining narrative of the Games themselves: the opening parade of athletes in national groups... wearing the colors on their kit... and the playing of the national anthems and the raising of national flags at medal ceremonies."² The state of Philippine sports was not always this bad. The Philippines placed second in the 1954 and 1958 Asian Games. In the 2010 Asian Games, however, the country only managed to come in at 19th place, one spot worse than its 18th place showing in 2006.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-time_Olympic_Games_medal_table, <http://www.olympic.org>

² Quinnipiac University Sports Studies, Fall 2009, <http://qusps.blogspot.com/2009/11/nationalism-in-sport-good-or-bad-thing.html>

There is still a lot of room for improvement in the future Olympic Games. The Philippines is a country with a population of 97 million (12th most populous in the world) but has been consistent in sending a very small delegation. The country sent 14 athletes in Athens in 2004, 15 in Beijing in 2008 and 11 in the ongoing London Olympics. The 1928 contingent in Amsterdam consisted of four athletes.

This bill seeks to grant an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor to a Filipino athlete who wins a gold medal for the Philippines. It is a small token but it is a symbol of the appreciation of the country for the honor and prestige that will go with the achievement.



HON. MARK AERON H. SAMBAR
Representative, Puwersang Bayaning Atleta Party List

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1 AN ACT
2 TO GRANT AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL OF VALOR
3 TO FILIPINO OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALISTS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

4 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Olympic Gold Medal of Valor Act of
5 2012."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* Pursuant to Article 2, Sec. 17 of
7 the Constitution, The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts,
8 culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and
9 promote total human liberation and development.

10 In addition to this, Article 10, Section 19, paragraph 1 provides that the State shall
11 promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions and amateur
12 sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork,
13 and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

1 Towards this end, it is the objective of the Legislature to grant incentives to Olympic
2 gold medallists in view of the honor and prestige that their achievement will bring to our
3 country.

4 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as
5 follows:

6 (a) "Athlete" shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines who is a member of
7 the national team as chosen by the appropriate national sports association recognized by the
8 Philippine Sports Commission;

9 (b) "Commission" shall refer to the Philippine Sports Commission;

10 SECTION 4. *Olympic gold medal of valor.* An athlete who wins a gold medal at the
11 Olympic games shall be awarded an Olympic Gold Medal of Valor by the Philippine Sports
12 Commission. He shall also be given a cash incentive of TWO MILLION PESOS
13 (P2,000,000.00) and this is in addition to the benefits provided by Republic Act No. 9064 or
14 the Sports Incentives and Benefits Act of 2001.

15 SECTION 5. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations
16 or part thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
17 repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SECTION 6. Should any provision of this Act be found unconstitutional by a court of
19 law, such provision shall be severed from the remainder of this Act, and such action shall not
20 affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Act.

21 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication
22 in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.